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FEATURE

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A *Race* FOR SURVIVAL

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The 3rd International Bornean Frog Race 2014 will take place in April to give these Bornean amphibians a fighting chance.



The *Hylarana raniceps* frog species is a shining example of the beauty of amphibians. This image by Philip Chen Zhao Ching took top honours in the Best Photo category.



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When you first hear 'Frog Race', perhaps the picture that comes to mind is a line of frogs at the starting point, ready to be released to leap to the finish line. But, the Bornean Frog Race is not a race for frogs; it is a race for humans to find these animals, and eventually, learn a bit more about their fascinating life histories.

Jointly organised by IBEC and Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) with the collaboration of the Ministry of Tourism Sarawak, this race requires participants to capture digital images of amphibians in the lowland rainforest of the Kubah National Park in Matang at night. Participants are given two hours. Images will be judged based on their technical quality, aesthetics, as well as type of photographic equipment used and rarity of frog species photographed.

The Kubah National Park is an amphibian hotspot, with nearly 60 species of amphibians, including *anurans* (frog and toad) and *caecilians*, recorded. Here, you'll also find one of the world's smallest frogs, the *Microhyla nepenthicola* that's just the size of a pea, and lives in the distinctive flask-shaped pitcher plant, as well as the mahogany-backed frog, *Hylarana luctuosa*, whose call has been described as the world's most beautiful sound.



More than a race, this one-day event aims to convey to the public the importance of protecting the amphibians of Borneo. These amphibians are greatly threatened by logging and the drying up of streams, as well as the danger of being captured for food and the pet trade. Other hazards include the introduction of diseases and competitors.

During this event, informative talks, films, exhibitions and photographic workshops will be conducted, and this year, the programme also includes an interactive educational programme for primary school children. A unique event, the race promises to be a fun-filled event for the whole family!

RACE HISTORY

The first Bornean Frog Race was held at Santubong Resort, Matang in April 2012. The participants comprised mainly students from

1. Frog species named *Hylarana picturata*. This photo by Dominic Jake won the third prize in the Best Photo category.

2. Participants at the event with the 'Save the Frogs' poster.

3. Frog species named *Rhacophorus pardalis*. This photo by Mohd Isham Mohd Azhar took home the prize of Honourable Mention.

4. Frog species named *Megophrys nasuta*. This photo by Methos Phang bagged the second spot in the Best Photo category.

5. Another exquisite species called *Philautus bunitus* from the Borneo jungle photographed by Indraneil Das.



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the local university, photographers and nature enthusiasts. The response was encouraging, and subsequently, another race was organised in 2013. The 2013 event went on to include well-known local and international experts in the field, and attracted an even larger crowd when it was decided that the race would be an annual event. 3

GETTING THERE AirAsia flies to Kuching, Sarawak, from various destinations. Go to www.airasia.com for details.

FROG DATE

WHEN April 26, 2014.

WHERE Kubah National Park, Matang, Kuching, Sarawak

MORE INFO

theinternationalborneanfrog race.weebly.com
twitter.com/BorneanFrogRace
www.facebook.com/TheBorneanFrogRace